Executive Proclamation
State of South Dakota
Office of the Governor

Whereas, Indian Health Service physicians have provided health care and worked to build successful health programs to the best of their abilities, often in the face of adverse circumstances; and,

Whereas, Three of Indian Health Service's finest physicians, Drs. Christopher Krogh, Arvo Oopik, and Ruggles Stahn, lost their lives in a plane crash during a snowstorm in North Dakota on February 24, 1994, while en route to perform their clinical duties; and,

Whereas, These three physicians exemplify the courage and determination to which we all aspire; and,

Whereas, The fruits of their medical and scientific efforts live on in the form of continuing programs and publications that form the backbone for promoting health among American Indians and combating such problems as cardiovascular disease, diabetes, childhood obesity, sudden infant death syndrome, fetal alcohol syndrome, and others; and,

Whereas, Their legacy and their memory lives on for their families and for all who have benefited from their roles as husbands, fathers, sons, mentors, scientists, and compassionate physicians:

Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim February 28, 2004, as

INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

in South Dakota.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Twenty-fifth Day of February in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Four.

M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:

Chris Nelson, Secretary of State